



USARSO color guard representing command in San Antonio



The USARSO Color Guard at the San Antonio Rampage game on March 4, 2006. From left to right. SGT Pardo, SSG Santiago (NCOIC), SGT Irion, SGT Kelley, SPC Cassens

Being a member of the colorguard represents 15 to 20 hours a week marching up and down a 50 by 70 foot area spinning a 3 1/2 pound rifle or a 5 1/2 foot flag. It's your free time to strive for perfection and hearing; "That's wrong! Pay attention! Try harder!" over and over.

It is riding countless hours on cold bumpy buses and eating in more fast food restaurants than you care to remember. Sometimes you march with blisters on your feet, splints on your fingers, when you're sick or when every muscle in your body aches. It means being willing to try again even though you have just suffered a defeat, tears are streaming down your face and your heart is breaking.

Colorguard is a Physical:

It requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, feet and legs; in addition to extraordinary control of the back, stomach and torso; all of which are called to respond instantly to the sound the ears hear and the sight the eye see. Colorguard surrounds around endurance, ability, strength, and balance.



Capt. William Kampf, Joint Task Force-Bravo, Soto Cano AB, Honduras, pinning jump wings on a Honduran military member after a joint airborne operation between the two nations March 23 in Honduras. After the jump, members making there first jump receive jump wings from the other nation.

Honduras Orphanage Project Underway



Photo courtesy of JTFB

By Mary Ellen Keen

Collection of Donations for the Honduran Orphanage Project began this week at USARSO. In its third year of sending much needed items to orphanages near Joint Task Force-Bravo (JTF-Bravo), and this collection is for unbreakable dinnerware. You will find collection tubs throughout the USARSO areas of Building 1000 and items can always be dropped off in the Chaplain's Office.

Arrangements have been made for a discount with the Ace Mart Restaurant Supply on Austin Highway if USARSO employees would like to purchase there. We are seeking only items which are very durable such as polycarbonate or melamine plates and bowls because of both the packing, shipping and weight issues with glass or pottery and because we want the orphanages to get many years of use from what is sent. Our

goal is to send at least 250 complete place settings, which includes a plate, bowl, tumbler, spoon and fork. Chaplain Hoadley witnessed on a recent visit that the children had to eat in shifts because there was not enough dinnerware for everyone.

We will always accept



donations of new or gently used clothing, as well as hygiene items and school supplies for shipment to Honduras all year round at the Chaplain's office!

Ace Mart Restaurant Supply at 2653 Austin Highway near Walzem has agreed to not charge tax on our purchases.

USARSO Community News Publication Dates

Submit by Date

April 28, 2006
May 26, 2006
June 29, 2006
July 28, 2006

Publication Date

May 5, 2006
June 2, 2006
July 7, 2006
August 4, 2006



Please submit information you would like to have included in the USARSO Newsletter to
sandra.ramey@samhouston.army.mil

Ask for Art Magallanes if there is a problem. The items we are most in need of are:

9" Plates -

Item# COPPCD209TAN -
polycarbonate - \$2.16 each
or

Item#COP43501T -
melamine - \$2.42 each

16oz Bowls-

item#COP43520T -
melamine - \$2.25 each

We will of course take
donations of similar type

items from any source.

Ace Mart Hours: M-F 8:30-5:30, Sat.
9:30-2:00

Thank you for your support of this
wonderful project!!

Fort Sam Houston Cell Phone Policy has been amended

The Fort Sam Houston Cell Phone Policy has been amended to allow the use of Hands-Free communication devices.

Do you think using hands free while driving is safe? Keep reading for some answers from the US Driving SME -the Department of Transportation.

NHTSA Policy and FAQs on Cellular Phone Use While Driving

Policy Statement

The primary responsibility of the driver is to operate a motor vehicle safely. The task of driving requires full attention and focus. Cell phone use can distract drivers from this task, risking harm to themselves and others. Therefore, the safest course of action is to refrain from using a cell phone while driving.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Does cell phone use while driving cause traffic crashes?

A. Research shows that driving while using a cell phone can pose a serious cognitive distraction and degrade driver performance. The data are insufficient to quantify crashes caused by cell phone use specifically, but NHTSA estimates that driver distraction from all sources contributes to 25 percent of all police-reported traffic crashes.

Q. Is it safe to use hands-free (headset, speakerphone, or other device) cell phones while driving?

A. The available research indicates that whether it is a hands-free or hand-held cell phone, the cognitive distraction is significant enough to degrade a driver's performance. This can cause a driver to miss key visual and audio cues needed to avoid a crash.

Q. Is talking on a cell phone any worse than having a conversation with someone in the car?

A. Any activity a driver engages while driving has the potential to distract the driver from the primary task of driving. Some research findings comparing cell phone use to passenger conversations while driving, show each to be equally risky, while others show cell phone use

distracting as grooming/eating, but less distracting than reading or changing CDs. It is also important to keep in mind that some activities are carried out more frequently and for longer periods of time and may result in greater risk.

For more information on driving safety www.nhtsa.dot.gov

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to be more risky. A significant difference between the two is the fact that a passenger can monitor the driving situation along with the driver and pause for, or alert the driver to, potential hazards, whereas a person on the other end of the phone line is unaware of the roadway situation.

Q. What do the studies say about the relative risk of cell phone use when compared to other tasks like eating or drinking?

A. The current research does not provide a definitive answer as to which behavior is riskier. In a controlled study, comparing eating and operating a voice-activated cell phone to continuously operating a CD player, it was found that the CD player operation was more distracting than the other activities. In a test track study conducted by NHTSA, the results showed that manual dialing was about as

New procedures for Soldiers to request Tuition Assistance

1. The purpose of this message is to announce a new Army Human Resources Command (AHRC) Army Continuing Education System (ACES) process for automating tuition assistance (TA) through a new education website. Starting 1 Apr 06, Army TA will only be available through the education website, www.GoArmyEd.com. Education centers will no longer issue TA for college courses that begin 1 May and beyond. This MILPER message expires NLT 1 Apr 08.

2. Soldiers on active duty, including enlisted Soldiers of the Army National Guard and Army Reserve on active duty pursuant to Title 10 or Title 32 are eligible to request TA online for courses that begin 1 May 06 and beyond.

3. The GoArmyEd website will provide one location for academic institutions to process credit-bearing enrollments, submit Soldier grades, verify and prepare invoices for payment, and access centralized support for troubleshooting, and information about Army TA processes and policies.

4. The following GoArmyEd procedures are effective immediately:

A. All Soldiers should visit the website (www.GoArmyEd.com) periodically for the latest updates so that they may address any questions they have with their local Education Center. Currently, the homepage appears as eArmyU. Effective 1 Apr 06, the name will change to GoArmyEd. At that time, eArmyU will reside as an online education option in the GoArmyEd website.

B. Soldiers who previously enrolled in the eArmyU program and have maintained the minimum standard Army TA grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 will automatically have access to GoArmyEd.

C. Soldiers who have received tuition assistance (TA) with a passing grade since 1 Oct 04 will receive an invitation in their Army Knowledge Online (AKO) email account beginning Mar 06 to obtain a login/password for the GoArmyEd website.

D. In order for Soldiers to obtain TA for classes starting 1 May 06

and beyond, they must be registered on the GoArmyEd website; therefore, they should register for a login/password as soon as possible.

E. After 1 Apr 06, Soldiers who are not in eArmyU, or who did not receive an invitation through their AKO email, must request a GoArmyEd login by choosing the "New Users" tab in the public view of www.GoArmyEd.com before requesting TA. The "New Users" tab will guide Soldiers through the processes necessary to obtain a login and establish a GoArmyEd account.

F. Obtaining a login/password does not obligate the Soldier to take eArmyU or any other college courses.

G. During the period 1 Oct 05 through 30 Apr 06, installation Education Centers will continue to issue TA for courses that begin prior to 1 May 06 and post grades as usual. Since 1 Oct 05, Education Centers no longer process TA invoices for schools.

5. The following GoArmyEd procedures are effective 1 Apr 06:

A. Soldiers will identify their chosen degree/certificate program and request TA online through www.GoArmyEd.com.

B. The record of courses previously taken and the Soldier's degree plan will be accessible to the Soldier online.

C. TA eligibility checks will be automated. If TA is approved, a request for enrollment will be passed electronically to the school.

D. If the TA request is disapproved, the Soldier will be notified of necessary corrective action(s). Education Center personnel will be available to assist with resolving TA issues.

E. The Soldier will annually obtain a Commander's signature on a TA Statement of Understanding (SOU). Sergeants First Class (SFC) and above may sign for themselves in place of the Commander. Each term the Soldier will recertify the TA SOU online.

F. If a Soldier needs to withdraw from class, the withdrawal must be done online through

www.GoArmyEd.com. The withdrawal will be forwarded to the school.

G. If the Soldier withdraws for personal reasons, TA repayment procedures will be initiated by GoArmyEd. Personal withdrawal reasons require the Soldier to repay the TA. Repayment will take place through an automated feed between GoArmyEd and Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS).

H. If the Soldier withdraws for military reasons, Unit Commander information will be required with the military reason for withdrawal. The request is subject to verification. If the military reason is approved, TA repayment will be waived. Soldiers are reminded that fraudulent requests for military reasons are subject to disciplinary action or criminal charges under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). All information and transactions occur online through GoArmyEd.

I. All schools which have processed TA in the past with the Army will be listed in GoArmyEd. Soldiers who choose to attend a school with courses listed in GoArmyEd will receive up front TA. Soldiers choosing to attend a school that does not have any courses available in GoArmyEd will request TA prior to the start of class and self-pay tuition directly to the school. Authorized TA reimbursement will be paid through DFAS directly to the Soldier's bank account after receipt of successful grade. A listing of GoArmyEd schools that provide upfront TA are listed on the GoArmyEd website under the "Earn A Degree" link. Click on "Schools and Programs".

6. The primary advantages of GoArmyEd for the Soldier are equitable, virtual access to TA on a 24/7 basis (with no need to visit an education counselor) and interactive degree maps focused on degree completion. The advantages to schools are efficiencies in processing TA invoices and improved timeliness in receiving TA invoice payments. The anticipated advantage for the Army is improved management of TA dollars.

7. Point of contact for this message is Kelley Mustion/Ruth Foster, DSN 221-9800, tapcpde@hoffman.army.mil

Brazilian Army Leads the Efforts of the Conference of American Armies

As Vice President of the Republic, José Alencar Gomes da Silva, presided over the Opening Ceremony of the

Conference of American Armies at the Headquarters of the Brazilian Army. He was accompanied by the

Commander of the Brazilian Army, General Francisco Roberto de Albuquerque, and the Chief of the General Headquarters of the Argentine Army, Lt. Col. Roberto Fernando Bendini. The event commemorated the XXVII Conference of American Armies and the transfer of the Permanent Executive Secretary from Argentina to Brazil. Also in attendance was Brig Gen. P.K. Keen, Commander, U.S. Army



South.

The Office of the Permanent Executive Secretariat, administrative body of the Conference of American Armies, will remain in Brazil throughout 2006 and 2007.

The Conference



of American Armies, established in 1960, is the result of an accord between the Commanders of the Army of the three Americas. The organization was established with the goal of creating a forum for common discussion between the land forces of the Continent. The Conference of American Armies is made of 20 Member Armies, 5 Observer

Armies and 2 Observer Organizations. Throughout the 46 years of existence, the organization has proven, in a way that is increasingly evident, the value of the goals for which the organization has grown.

USARSO Youth Achievements

Son of Ms. Bonita Avilan, USARSO Regional Affairs, G5 "Carlitos" has won District Competition for Computer Java Programming.

He took 1st place in individuals and then of course "Judson High School" took 1st place as a school. He was so excited.....not too many times you get a smile out of him but, this was one, and of course, mom had to make a big deal out of it! He is now headed to Regions. Regions will take place in 3 weeks. HOOOAH for my son! We'll keep you posted on how he does at Regionals!

Among others... Ms. Avilan's daughter, Jessica was accepted to Texas State at San Marcos for her Bachelor's Degree Program. She's so excited!

Let's give her a big hand! This is an excellent accomplishment.

Her major is: Criminal Justice



Check out the USARSO Web site for news and information! Go to <http://www.usarso.army.mil>

JTFB Happenings

Capt. (Dr.) Danira Mayes has a foot firmly planted in two worlds

By Tech. Sgt. Joel Langton
JTF-Bravo Public Affairs

The Joint Task Force-Bravo flight surgeon, assigned to the 228th Aviation was born in Honduras and lived until she turned 11-years-old when she moved to United States.

She understands the quirks of each culture very well. She grew quickly adept at the American way, working hard in high school, making straight A's, eventually going to college and earning a medical degree, with a specialty in internal medicine. Then, Captain Mayes earned a commission from the Army.

"This assignment is kind of perfect for me," Captain Mayes said. "I get to be here in the culture, but I'm an outsider. I look like the locals and speak like the locals and I can blend in almost perfectly."

The trip from a Honduran native daughter to an American doctor was a memorable journey that was accelerated by a war burning its way across Central America.

Mayes' father and mother decided enough was enough, and as parents who prided themselves on giving their four daughters every chance imaginable, it didn't take long to imagine the few opportunities they'd be able to have here.

"It was a very militaristic environment, a lot of McCarthyism," said Captain Mayes.

So the Mayes family boarded a plane and soon then 11-year-old Captain Mayes found herself navigating the U.S. public school system.

Their first hurdle was overcoming stereotypes in teachers' minds. "They



Photos's by Martin Chahin

really didn't think we were that smart," she said. Hard work quickly showed the teachers that these four sisters, all of whom would eventually become doctors, were smart.

"It's so true, that anyone who's willing to work hard in America can make whatever they want to of themselves," she said.

room at other times. Many medical school students get their only experience putting in an IV in a classroom," she said. "I learned how in the back of an ambulance. I could have gotten through medical school quicker, but I wouldn't have the experiences I have now, and I think that makes me a stronger doctor."

She knows her JTF—Bravo assignment as flight surgeon is nearly ideal for her experiences. Having a foot firmly in two cultures not only benefits her, but the entire task force, even those outside of the unit. When three Air Force members assigned to New Horizons were in a tragic accident that claimed two lives and sent the third under the surgeon's scalpel for extensive surgery, it was Captain Mayes who was flown by helicopter across Honduras to monitor the care.

"I was on the phone talking to people here, working with the surgeons there and I thought, 'wow, I was perfectly prepared for this.'" It's a preparation that lets her make a big difference in a lot of lives at JTF-Bravo and throughout her homeland.



During medical school, many people simply go to school and spend long hours studying. For Captain Mayes, that wouldn't have been hard enough.

"Every Saturday night, she rode an ambulance, as well as volunteering in an operating room and a labor and delivery

JTFB Happenings continued...

The most unique Orphanage of them all

Story & photos by Tech. Sgt. Joel Langton
JTF-Bravo Public Affairs

Every orphanage is a little different, however, the Joint Security Forces may have found the most unique one of all.

The Orphanage Casayuda is an orphanage and school that provides care and education for disabled children.

The 10-year-old orphanage, located in Comayugua, has beds for about 40 boys and girls, and takes in another 40 students during the school day.

It's one of three schools in Honduras that teaches sign language Nelly Zelaya, the school's founder said.

Ms. Zelaya founded the orphanage after she fell out of a tree and broke her back when she was 15, leaving her in a wheelchair and out of her college, which promptly threw her out.

"It was very difficult for me to find a college in

Honduras to complete my education," she said.

Ms. Zelaya began the school and shortly afterwards the Joint Security Forces began providing support.

Their projects have been numerous.

They built a cement basketball court, which the students promptly turned into a soccer court. Donating clothes and school supplies, as well as sponsoring parties, are just a few of the projects they have worked on, said Maj. Earl Layne, JSF commandner.

"When you see the difference they make in young people's lives, young people who are

already at a disadvantage, you want to help. Our guys say it's easy to go to Tegus and spend \$100, why not give \$10 to these guys and make a difference," said Maj. Jose Iguina, JSF deputy commander.



Triathlon no match for team JTF-B

1st Lt. Ali Tedesco

JTF-Bravo Public Affairs

Twenty-one competitors from Joint Task Force-Bravo and four Honduran Air Force cadets braved the Bay Islands International Triathlon Saturday. The Soto Cano athletes were among nearly 150 participants who took on the island of Roatan's tri-sport course. From first-time triathletes to seasoned competitors, the JTF-Bravo team represented athletes across the spectrum.

"Events like these give Soto Cano the chance to show off its most

important asset...people," said Margaret Kenny, who was one of the event organizers. "Most people haven't ever trained long term for an event like this. It gives people the chance to set a goal and work toward it. The experience of training for a specific goal and then having your training tested is one that we should all have."

Kenny was one of eight personnel who chose to compete individually in the sprint distance course, which includes a 750 meter ocean swim, 25 kilometer bike course and 5 kilometer run.

"I decided to do the triathlon to get in better shape and give me something to strive for while here at Soto Cano," said Sherri Wellman, who also completed the sprint distance course. "I probably trained about 10 to 15 hours a week, which consisted of running, biking, swimming and strength training. The swim and run part was what I expected; however the bike portion was the biggest challenge."

More than 30 professional athletes competed in the triathlon, many simply for the challenge of what
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is thought to be the toughest bike course on the pro circuit. Four JTF-Bravo athletes took on the Olympic distance course with the pros. The Olympic distance consists of a 1000 meter swim, 40 kilometer bike and a 10 kilometer run.

A third group of JTF-Bravo participants choose to enter as a team. Three relay teams from the base competed in the sprint distance event. Each team had three members who completed just one of the three sports.

"The relay team can be nice if everyone on the team has the spirit of competition," said Nnamdi Anyalebechi, who competed in Roatan triathlon for the third consecutive year. He took on the run portion of his relay team's course. "I decided to compete because I love marathons and half-marathons and I love to see people pursuing their goals."

Every Soto Cano team member finished the race, but the success of the event wasn't dependent on the athletes alone.

"Without the help of the 'whole team,' this event couldn't have happened," said Kenny. "From the CH-47 flight crew who got up early on Sunday to pick us up, to the tower staff who came in to make sure we

got home safe, to the budget personnel who helped us get our TDY funds appropriated, it was a team effort. Many, many people at Soto Cano, besides the competitors, made this happen."

Top Finishers

Name		Distance	Division Place
Richard Lainez	Olympic	Men 35-39	3rd
Jose Cruz (HAF)	Sprint	Men 1-19	1st
Margaret Kenny	Sprint	Women 20-24	1st
Robert Kurtts	Sprint	Men 25-29	1st
Bryan Whitmer	Sprint	Men 25-29	2nd
Allison Tedesco	Sprint	Women 25-29	1st
Sherri Wellman	Sprint	Women 30-34	1st
Betsy Ross	Sprint	Women 35-39	2nd
A.M.A. (HAF)	Sprint	Relay	1st
The A Team	Sprint	Relay	2nd
The Deep Blue	Sprint	Relay	2nd



Courtesy Photo

IN AND AROUND TEXAS

[Cowboys on Main](#)

Date: Apr 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

City: [Bandera](#)

Enjoy authentic cowboy entertainment from strolling musicians to chuck wagons and trick horses. Activities vary weekly. Downtown Main Street. E-mail: growthr@texas.net

[Daffodil Days Festival](#)

Date: Apr 1

City: [Round Rock](#)

Features arts & crafts vendors, music and festivities. Begins at 9 a.m. Saturday. Round Rock Senior Center. E-mail: tjackson@round-rock.tx.us

[Spamarama](#)

Date: Apr 1-2

City: [Austin](#)

Everything Spam, including a cook-off, Spam Olympics and Spam Jam, comprises the 28th annual festival honoring this potted pork product. Waterloo Park, 403 E. 15th St.

[Youthfest](#)

Date: Apr 1

City: [San Marcos](#)

Offers art activities for the entire family and youth performances. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. San Marcos Plaza.

[10th Annual Chili Cook-Off & Auction](#)

Date: Apr 1

City: [Bandera](#)

Includes live music all afternoon on 11th Street. 11th Street Cowboy Bar, 307 11th St. E-mail: cowboybarbandera@aol.com

[Muster Days](#)

Date: Apr 1-2

City: [Austin](#)

Enjoy military exhibits, demonstrations and historical re-enactments. Features a parade, flyovers, band concerts and food booths. Admission and parking are free. Shuttle buses are available from the parking areas. Texas National Guard's Camp Mabry.

[Market Day](#)

Date: Apr 1, May 6

City: [Wimberley](#)

Lion's Field, R.R. 2325.

[Kerr County Wild Game Dinner](#)

Date: Apr 1

City: [Kerrville](#)

This popular annual event serves up exotic game with all the fixings, a raffle and live auction. Hill Country Youth Exhibit Center, Hwy. 27 E.

[A Day in the Country](#)

Date: Apr 1

City: [Brenham](#)

Celebrates this boys' ranch ministry. Includes live music, barbecue, petting zoo, tours and horseback presentations. Miracle Farm, 10802 FM 2621. E-mail: info@miraclefarm.org

[11th Annual Bayou City Cajun Fest](#)

Date: Apr 1-2

City: [Houston](#)

Live bands perform from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Features traditional Cajun favorite foods — shrimp etouffee, red beans and rice, fried boudin balls, seafood gumbo, and spicy boiled crawfish. Traders Village, 7979 N. Eldridge Road. E-mail: mike@tradersvillage.com

[Spring Market Day Arts & Crafts Festival](#)

Date: Apr 1

City: [Comfort](#)

Shop an amazing array of arts & crafts vendors. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Comfort Park.

[H-E-B Children's Festival](#)

Date: Apr 1-2

City: [Houston](#)

Offers a dazzling smorgasbord of exciting activities, including six entertainment stages, more than 350 games and 10 Family Adventure Areas. Benefits Child Advocates Inc. Downtown Houston

[Pleasant Hill Winery's Ninth Anniversary](#)

Date: Apr 1-2

City: [Brenham](#)

Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Pleasant Hill Winery, 1441 Salem Road. E-mail: texaswine@aol.com

[Salsa Festival](#)

Date: Apr 1

City: [Three Rivers](#)

Includes two stages of music; 50 arts, crafts and food vendors; salsa-making competition; salsa tasting; bike ride; and horseshoe and washer tournament. Town Square. E-mail: citytrex@fnbnet.net

[The Austin Fine Arts Festival](#)

Date: Apr 1-2

City: [Austin](#)

A tradition since 1951, this two-day exhibit brings 220 nationally juried artists to Austin. Includes artist demonstrations, interactive art installations, live music, dance performances, kids art activities and more. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Republic Square Par

[Easter Island Easter Egg Scramble](#)

Date: Apr 5

City: [South Padre Island](#)

Kids age 10 and younger are invited to bring a basket and fill it with candy and toy-filled eggs. Hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Back lawn of the Visitors Center.

[Buc Days](#)

Date: Apr 6-May 7

City: [Corpus Christi](#)

USARSO hosts Army Section Chief/Security Assistance Organization Conference

By: SGT Melissa Ann Guerra & Nydia Velez

For the past seven years, USARSO has been hosting the annual Army Section Chief/Security Assistance Organization (ARSEC/SAO) Conference.

For the past two years, Army Attachés throughout USARSO's AOR have also been invited to participate. This is a true milestone as the

ARSECs and the ARMAs had the opportunity to present US issues and concerns from their respective country in a round table discussion format. Under the guidance and leadership of Lt Col. Richard Kempf and the exceptional support and months of planning and coordinating, the conference

was finally underway.

The Army Section Chief, Security Assistance Organization, Army Attaché Conference provided an opportunity for U.S.

Soldiers from 23 Latin American countries to share ideas, increase communications and work toward building a tight relationships between the Section Chief and Attaché during the week of 13-17 February 2006. Along with back-up power point presentations, many



arrived in San Antonio with shopping lists in hand. They came armed not only for intense discussion but for a scavenger hunt of air filters, car parts and toys as well not readily available in their host country.

The shopping and the briefings were only part of this busy week, however. A detail of nine drivers under the direction of USARSO transportation coordinator Jose Rodriguez; aided conference guests in attending more than 161 appointments scattered across Fort Sam Houston.

The week-long conference was not only work-oriented, but also provided the opportunity for those stationed outside the United States, with no garrison services available, a chance to receive medical and dental care, Defense Language Proficiency Testing

(DLPT), new identification cards, financial services, retirement services, Department of the Army photos, and branch manager interviews.

With the support of the Brooke Army Medical Center administrative staff, the Section

Chiefs and Attaches were able to receive the much needed care, that had been long overdue.

As the week came to a close, conference guests left San Antonio with a better understanding of key regional issues, who and what support agencies are available, missions and objectives, information tools with which to improve day-to-day operations, and increased communication between the Section Chiefs and Attachés; working together in effort to meet the desired goal.

IN AND AROUND TEXAS

From its simple beginnings in 1938, Buc Days has grown into the premier festival event in Corpus Christi.

In addition to the carnival, and the spectacular illuminated night parade, the festivities now include a PRCA rodeo, BBQ Challenge, Competencia Folklorica, junior parade, stadium show, fireworks and various sporting and athletic events. Downtown Corpus Christi Area. E-mail: info@bucdays.com

[39th Annual Spring Round Top Antiques Fair](#)

Date: Apr 6-8

City: [Round Top](#)

E-mail:

info@roundtoptexasantiques.com

[Texas Hill Country Wine & Food Festival](#)

Date: Apr 6-9

City: [Austin](#)

Texas chefs and wineries pair their culinary offerings and wine in one of the country's top food and wine events

[Texas SandFest](#)

Date: Apr 7-9

City: [Port Aransas](#)

Master sculptors — from all over the world — compete by sculpting incredible works of art out of sand. Offers amateur and youth contests as well. Includes free live music, free sand sculpting lessons and much more. This is one of the largest sand sculpting festivals in the United States. On the beach, 1 mile south of Horace Caldwell Pier.

[14th Annual New Vintage Wine Trail](#)

Date: Apr 7-8

City: [Grapevine](#)

Jazz Wine Train, Blessing of the Vines, new release wines, and shuttle to each of Grapevine's winery/tasting rooms on the Wine Trail.

[Bloomin Temple Festival](#)

Date: Apr 7-9

City: [Temple](#)

Designed to celebrate Temple's 125th birthday, this event includes a carnival, arts & crafts, car show, entertainers and more. Opens Friday with a Happy Birthday Temple Party at the Frank W. Mayborn Civic & Convention Center. Nationally known country music performers Josh Turner, Eddy Raven, Brian Gowan and Pauline Reese are scheduled to appear Saturday night. Saturday and Sunday activities occur in downtown Temple

[Strawberry Festival](#)

Date: Apr 7-9

City: [Poteet](#)

Event is a time-honored tradition of celebrating the famous Poteet strawberry harvest. Fourteen areas of family entertainment feature concerts, nightly dances, specialty acts, rodeo performances, "berry" special children's entertainers and more. Poteet Strawberry Festival Grounds. E-mail: nitaharvey@sbcglobal.net

[Bayou City Crawfish Festival](#)

Date: Apr 7-9

City: [Houston](#)

Old Market Square — Downtown Houston

[Market Days](#)

Date: Apr 8-9

City: [Boerne](#)

Features arts & crafts, antiques, collectibles, unusual items and food booths. Main Plaza.

[Clear Channel Radio Easter Celebration](#)

Date: Apr 8

City: [Corpus Christi](#)

Thousands of treat-filled colored eggs are handed to children, ages 2 to 12, as they go door-to-door at the historic homes in park. Includes moon jump, children's game area and more. Hours are noon to 3 p.m. Heritage Park, 1581 N. Chaparral.

[Pecan Festival & Grafting Seminar](#)

Date: Apr 8

Hours are 9 a.m. to noon. Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site, CR 285

[Official Bluebonnet Festival of Texas](#)

Date: Apr 8-9

City: [Chappell Hill](#)

Includes 250-plus craft booths, food, live music and more. Downtown Chappell Hill. E-mail: info@brenhamtexas.com

[Japan Festival](#)

Date: Apr 8-9

City: [Houston](#)

Showcases the Japanese arts and traditions. Includes a main stage, martial arts stage, eight Japanese food vendors, 50 exhibitors and kids games. Tour the gardens where the festival provides a tea ceremony, bonsai demonstrations and displays, Ikebana flower arranging demonstrations, origami and more. Hermann Park — Japanese Gardens. E-mail: yoko@jashouston.org

[Spring Plant Sale & Gardening Festival](#)

Date: Apr 8-9

City: [Austin](#)

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

[Scarborough Renaissance Festival](#)

Date: Apr 8-May29

City: [Waxahachie](#)

IN AND AROUND TEXAS

Re-created 16th-century English village offers 20 stages of entertainment, jousting, falconry, music, 200 plus artists and craftspeople, games, rides and foods from around the world. Open Saturdays and Sundays, plus Memorial Day. 2511 FM 66, exit 399A off I-35 E. E-mail: marketing@scarboroughhnenfest.com

[Third Annual Egg-stravaganza & Carnival](#)

Date: Apr 12

City: [Kyle](#)

Call or visit Web site for information.

[Savor the Arts](#)

Date: Apr 13

City: [San Antonio](#)

Enjoy gourmet food with an artful twist from some of San Antonio's favorite chefs, live music and a preview of the 2006 All School Exhibition. Hours are 7 to 11 p.m. For more information, call ext. 306.

[Trade Days](#)

Date: Apr 14-16

City: [Fredericksburg](#)

Includes more than 300 vendors, five barns, acres of antiques and more, biergarten and music. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Hwy. 290 E. across from Wildseed Farms. E-mail: fbg@moment.net

[Hill Country Easter Bike Tour](#)

Date: Apr 14-16

City: [Kerrville](#)

Schreiner University Campus, 2100 Memorial Blvd.

[Easter Fest on the River and Kerrville Chili & BBQ Cook-Off Classic](#)

Date: Apr 14-15

City: [Kerrville](#)

Cooks party and street dance are on Friday night. Includes chili and barbecue cook-off, vendors, food, children's games and rides, Easter egg hunt, music and more on Saturday. Flat Rock Lake County Park, 3840 Riverside Drive.

[Easter Egg Hunt](#)

Date: Apr 15

City: [Round Rock](#)

Offers a chance to find special prize eggs. The Easter bunny will hop by. Hunts begin at 9 a.m. for 0-4 year olds, 9:30 a.m. for 5-7 year olds, 10 a.m. for 8-9 year olds and 10:30 a.m. for 10-12 year olds. Old Settlers Park, 3300 E. Palm Valley Blvd. E-mail: mmoellenberg@round-rock.tx.us

[Old Gruene Market Days](#)

Date: Apr 15-16

City: [Gruene](#)

Features more than 100 vendors with uniquely crafted items, collectibles and packaged Texas foods. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

[Bob Marley Festival](#)

Date: Apr 15-16

City: [Austin](#)

Celebrates the king of reggae's birthday with music and food. Auditorium Shores.

[52nd Annual San Jacinto Festival & Shrimp Boil](#)

Date: Apr 19-23

Includes a carnival beginning Wednesday and barbecue cook-off on Friday. Features a parade, arts & crafts show, talent show, antique car show, and horseshoes and washers tournaments on Saturday. First Capitol Park, off FM 2852 two miles north of Hwy. 35 E. E-mail: rita@westcolumbiachamber.org

[MAIN ST. Fort Worth Arts Festival](#)

Date: Apr 20-23

City: [Fort Worth](#)

More than 200 artists offer an eclectic variety of fine art for sale, including ceramics, painting, photography, woodcarvings, glassworks, jewelry and multimedia compositions. Showcases live concerts on two stages, performance artists, street performers, food vendors and a family fun area. Spans nine blocks of downtown Fort Worth's historic brick-paved Main Street. Downtown Fort Worth.

[Old Settlers Music Festival](#)

Date: Apr 20-23

City: [Austin](#)

Encourages children and adults to appreciate and preserve American roots music by providing workshops, displays and activities. Features Grammy-winning Americana music, 30 bands on five stages, arts & crafts, camping, food concessions and more. Enjoy acoustic jazz and blues, bluegrass, old-time, local favorites and award-winning artists from around the world. Children's activities include a new talent competition, armadillo races, petting zoo, slide, moonwalk, stilt-walking, doll making, face painting and more. The Salt Lick BBQ Pavilion and Camp Ben McCulloch. For more information, call ext. 3.

[Austin International Poetry Festival](#)

Date: Apr 20-23

City: [Austin](#)

From academic poets in Anchorage to folk poets in Zambia, AIPF draws poets from every continent.

This is the largest non-juried poetry festival in the United States. Enjoy live poetry at venues across the city or submit poetry to the AIPF anthology, di-verse-city, and Christina Sergeyevna Poetry Award.

[Fiesta San Antonio](#)

Date: Apr 21-30

City: [San Antonio](#)

IN AND AROUND TEXAS

This Texas-sized celebration offers 100 events. Parades, festivals, concerts, coronations and dozens of other activities celebrate San Antonio's diverse history and culture. Various locations in San Antonio, including the Alamo, the River Walk, La Villita and Market Square. E-mail: fiesta@fiesta-sa.org

[Herb Festival](#)

Date: Apr 21-23

City: [Fredericksburg](#)

Enjoy music, herb/organic gardening, holistic vendors, cooking with herbs, wine tasting and more. Hours are 5:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Fredericksburg Herb Farm, 405 Whitney St. E-mail: info@fredericksburgherbfarm.com

[Crawfish Festival](#)

Date: Apr 21-23

Enjoy a canning show, contests, dancing, games, auction, carnival and crafts. Mauriceville Festival Grounds.

[New Braunfels Swap Meet](#)

Date: Apr 21-23

City: [New Braunfels](#)

Texas' third largest automotive swap meet. Comal County Fairground.

[Wine & Wildflowers Trail](#)

Date: Apr 21-23, 28-30

City: [Fredericksburg](#)

Wineries have special events on these two weekends,

[Wine & Wildflower Trail](#)

Date: Apr 21-23, 28-30

City: [Johnson City](#)

Texas Hills Vineyard. E-mail: wine@texashillsvineyard.com

[Antique Alley & 15-Mile Yard Sale](#)

Date: Apr 21-23, Sep 15-17

Join in a 15-mile country shopping extravaganza of antiques and collectibles, special dealer shows, arts & crafts, festival-style foods, cultural entertainment, yard sales and more. Grandview to Cleburne via FM 4. E-mail: popandgrans@digitex.net

[Southwest School of Art & Craft Fiesta Arts Fair](#)

Date: Apr 22-23

City: [San Antonio](#)

Juried art from across the U.S., live music, fiesta food, and a popular children's art garden. Ursuline Campus and Coates Chapel.

[Neches River Festival Parade](#)

Date: Apr 22

City: [Beaumont](#)

Call for information.

[Houston International Festival](#)

Date: Apr 22-23, 29-30

City: [Houston](#)

This year's festival spotlights Jamaica. Downtown is filled with ethnic food booths, arts & crafts, kiosks, interesting exhibits and 1,800 various performers.

Features diverse and celebrated music and dance groups from around the world. Offers Jamaican cuisine as well as other flavors from around the world — Japanese, Creole, Cajun, Caribbean, Chinese, African, French, Italian, Southwestern and Continental. Downtown Houston, including City Hall, Tranquility Park, Bagby Street, Upper and Lower Sam Houston Park and Allen Parkway.

[Citywide Garage Sale](#)

Date: Apr 22-23

City: [Austin](#)

Offers an antique, collectible and vintage flea market. Palmer Events Center. E-mail: info@cwgs.com

[Harcourt Children's Festival](#)

Date: Apr 22

City: [San Antonio](#)

Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. River Center Mall Lagoon.

[Folkfest 2006](#)

Date: Apr 22-23

City: [New Braunfels](#)

Family heritage celebration features living history demonstrations, heritage craft demonstrations, children's activities, ethnic food and entertainment. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Heritage Village, 1370 Church Hill Drive. E-mail: museum@nbheritagevillage.com

[Kindermasken Parade](#)

Date: Apr 22

City: [New Braunfels](#)

Historic children's costumed walking parade. All costumed children are welcome. Participants must be in line at 9:30 a.m. by the Central Fire Station off San Antonio Street. Parade begins at 10 a.m. E-mail: museum@nbheritagevillage.com

[Cypress Creek Crawfish Boil](#)

Date: Apr 22

City: [Wimberley](#)

Begins at 2 p.m. with live bands and a crawfish boil. Cypress Creek Cafe. E-mail: thecafe@wimberley-tx.com

[Pie Social](#)

Date: Apr 23

City: [Wimberley](#)

Includes homemade pies, music and entertainment. Historic Winters-Wimberley House, 14100 RR 12.